

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 remain in the application. Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly define the operation of the electronic money information altering unit of the communications device. Support for these claim amendments can be found in at least paragraphs 0041 and 0051-0055 and FIG. 8 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted no new matter has been added to the present application by this amendment.

Claims 2, 4-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki, Publication No. 2002/0041394 (hereinafter Aoki), in view of Rosen, Patent No. 6,205,436 (hereinafter Rosen), Kawan, Patent No. 6,442,532 (hereinafter Kawan) and Hansmann et al., Publication No. 2001/0016835 (hereinafter Hansmann) as set forth on pages 3-5 of the office action dated February 11, 2008.

In regards to claim 4, The Examiner asserted "neither Aoki, Rosen nor Kawan disclose the following amended limitation: sends the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving from the communications terminal a notification notifying that a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal when the document ID is received from the transmitting unit of the image forming apparatus". The Examiner interprets the first part of this limitation to read "when the document ID is received by the server from the transmitting unit of the image forming apparatus". The Examiner then asserted that Aoki discloses this part in paragraph 0134. The Examiner goes on to assert Hansmann teaches the second part of the above limitation and states "Hansmann teaches a method and system for payment by means of an electronic communications device (e.g., cellular phone). Hansmann teaches that a customer sends receipt of payment to the provider (who

is offering the goods and/or services) as proof of payment, and the purchased goods or service is delivered by the provider (para. 0009)".

Amended claim 4 is directed to a wide area network printing system including, inter alia, an accounting control device, a communications terminal, a server and an image forming apparatus, "whereby the electronic money information altering unit of the communications device subtracts a certain amount of money equivalent to the print data corresponding to the document ID from the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in accordance with an instruction sent from the accounting control unit and received by the sending/receiving unit to subtract the certain amount of electronic money, and the data sending/receiving unit of the server is operative to communicate with the communications terminal, and it reads out the print data identified by the document ID from the print data storing unit, and sends the print data to the image forming apparatus in response to receiving from the communications terminal a notification notifying that a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal when the document ID is received from the transmitting unit of the image forming apparatus" (Emphasis added). According to the system of amended claim 4, the communications terminal of the present invention performs not only notification to the server that the subtraction of the amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of print data has occurred and is completed, but also performs the subtraction of the amount of the electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data in the communications terminal itself.

Hansmann is directed to a method of payment in a purchasing action performed by means of an electronic communication device. A customer 12 builds up a connection with a service provider 14 by dialing the service provider's telephone number

on his communication device 12 to establish a voice connection, or by entering the internet address of the service provider to establish an internet connection. The customer 12 asks the provider 14 for a certain product and the provider 14 transmits a digitized bill via a parallel data or service channel of the communication device, as illustrated by arrow A3 in FIGS. 1 and 2. After the customer verifies the bill, a money transfer order is created in the communication device 12 and sent to a payment provider 16 via a telecommunication provider 10 (arrow A4 in FIGS. 1 and 2). The payment provider 16 then transfers an appropriate amount to the provider 14. Next, the payment provider 16 sends a signed billing receipt to the customer (arrow A5), from where it is forwarded to the service provider 14 (arrow A6) as proof of payment. The service provider 14 then acknowledges receipt of the proof of payment via the voice channel (arrow A8), and the purchasing action is completed.

In contrast, according to the invention of amended claim 4, a certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is subtracted in the communications terminal owned by the user. Then, when the server receives from the communications terminal a notification notifying that subtraction of the certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is completed, the server sends print data corresponding to the document ID to the image forming apparatus. The system of amend claim 4 is different than the system of Hansmann in that the subtraction of the certain amount of electronic money equivalent to the price of the print data is performed in the communication terminal owned by the user as opposed to the system of Hansmann where the settlement of a bill generated by a service provider 14 is performed in the payment provider 16 such as a telecommunication company of a user's cellular phone. Hansmann does not disclose "the electronic money information altering unit of the

communications device subtracts a certain amount of money equivalent to the print data corresponding to the document ID from the amount of electronic money stored in the storing unit in accordance with an instruction sent from the accounting control unit and received by the sending/receiving unit to subtract the certain amount of electronic money" as recited in amended claim 14, but rather discloses a payment provider, separate from a user's communication terminal, who executes a money transfer order for goods or services by debiting an account of the customer, e.g., an telecommunications account of the customer at his telecommunication company. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended claim 4 is patentable over the Aoki, Rosen, Kawan or Hansmann alone or in any combination.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 all depend from amended claim 4 and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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